

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please add the following new paragraph at page 1, after the title of the application:

This application is the U.S. national phase application of PCT International Application No. PCT/GB2003/003318, filed August 1, 2003, and claims priority to British Patent Application No. 0219112.0, filed August 16, 2002.

Please add the following heading at page 1, line 4:

**FIELD OF THE INVENTION**

Please add the following heading at page 1, line 8:

**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

Please add the following heading at page 2, line 17:

**SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

Please add the following headings and new paragraph at page 2, line 28:

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION**

The invention is described below by way of example only and with reference to the following drawings in which:

Figure 1 shows a graph of the desorption of hydrogen from an uncatalysed sample of nano-crystalline  $\text{MgH}_2$  and from a sample of nano-crystalline  $\text{MgH}_2$  co-milled with  $\text{PdO} \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$  for 80 hours and not according to the present invention;

Figure 2 shows a graph of the desorption of hydrogen from an uncatalysed sample of nano-crystalline  $\text{MgH}_2$  and from samples of nano-crystalline  $\text{MgH}_2$  co-milled with ruthenium black for the final 10 hours, 2 hours, 1 hour, 30 minutes and 15 minutes of milling time according to the present invention;

Figure 3 shows a graph of the desorption of hydrogen from an uncatalysed sample of  $\text{Mg}_2\text{Ni}$  and from a sample of  $\text{Mg}_2\text{Ni}$  co-milled with  $\text{PdO}\cdot\text{H}_2\text{O}$  for the final hour of milling time according to the present invention; and,

Figure 4 shows a graph of the desorption of hydrogen from an uncatalysed sample of  $\text{Mg}_2\text{Ni}$  and from samples of  $\text{Mg}_2\text{Ni}$  co-milled with ruthenium black for the final 10 hours, 2 hours, 1 hour, 30 minutes and 15 minutes of milling time according to the present invention.

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Please delete the paragraphs at page 5, lines 5-24.